

## ABSTRACT

A serving utensil, used for serving food on a salad bar, a buffet food service bar, or the like, is attached to the tether of a retractable tether device. The retractable tether device is coupled to the under surface of a sneeze shield extending over the food on a salad bar or buffet style food service. Coupling the retractable tether device to the under surface of the sneeze shield, effectively elevates the retractable tether device and the serving utensil coupled to the tether of the retractable tether device, above and/or over food on the salad bar. Alternatively, a shaft, having one end coupled to the edge or rim of a pan supported on the salad bar, extends vertically above the food in the pan to which the shaft is coupled. The retractable tether device is coupled to the distal end of the shaft. The shaft serves as the elevating element for the retractable tether device and serving utensil attached to the tether of the retractable tether device.

